

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the discussion held on June 15, 2005 between the Examiner and Gary Quick (Fish & Richardson), during which the Office Action of May 16, 2005 was discussed.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 in view of claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,534,679. In view of the amendments to the claims, this rejection has been rendered moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Support for new claims 20-26 may be found throughout the specification, for example in FIG. 3, and at page 29, lines 10-29; page 38, line 27 - page 39, line 2; and page 40, line 5 - page 41, line 10.

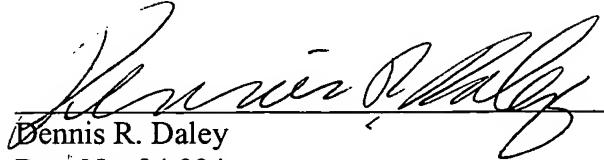
Support for new claims 27-30 may be found throughout the specification, for example in FIG. 9, and at page 45, lines 1-19.

Support for new claims 31-35 may be found throughout the specification, for example in FIG. 7, and at page 19, line 3 - page 20, line 6; and page 43, line 25 - page 44, line 10.

Canceled claims 1-19 referred to a process for production of lactic acid product. New claims 20-25 also refer to a process for production of lactic acid product. All claims are supported by the specification, and applicants request entry of the amendments and examination of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300



Dennis R. Daley
Reg. No. 34,994
DRD:jjb

Date: June 16, 2005

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE